

ちはやふる

Poem 185



こちらから
第1話試し読み
できます!

ALRIGHT,
SHOW ME
THEN.

I WON'T
TARGET
'CHIIHA'.

THAT
YOU'VE
LEARNED
FROM
SUOU-
SAN.

THE
MANIPULATIVE
KARUTA

I'M NOT
GONNA
FIGHT YOU
HEAD-ON.

すえ つぐ ゆ き
末次由紀



Yae-
mugu-
ra~

2

IF ONE
ITS NATURAL
ENEMY HAD
TO BE NAMED,
IT WOULD
ONLY BE
HUMANS!

DID YOU KNOW
THAT BEAR IS
A BEAST CAPABLE
OF RUNNING AT
60KMPH WITH
VIRTUALLY NO
NATURAL ENEMIES?

LADIES
AND
GENTLE-
MEN.

HAVE YOU
EVEN BEEN
UNFORTUNATE
ENOUGH
TO HAVE TO
SQUARE OFF
AGAINST
A BEAR?







EVEN IF
I WON'T
WIN,

I'LL WEAR
DOWN
HARADA-
SENSEI.



THERE
IT IS,
THERE
IT IS.

OH.

OW-
OW-
OW.



APOL-
OGIES.



MAYBE,
JUST
MAYBE,
I'LL SWEEP
THE
EASTERN
QUALIFIER!

MY
VERY FIRST
QUALIFIER,
AND I'M
ALREADY IN
THE SEMI-
FINALS!

I'M
AWESOME!
CERTIFI-
FIABLY
AWESOME!



BUT...

COULD IT
BE THAT
ONII-CHAN
REALLY UP
AND LEFT
ALREADY...?

AL-
THOUGH
I DOUBT
IT,

...



THERE
IT IS,

YUUKI-SAN'S
TRADEMARK
TURN ON HER
RIGHT KNEE
AFTER A
SUCCESSFUL
TAKE.

YOKOHAMA
Caruta Club
since 1980

NO IDEA
WHY
IT HAS TO BE
THAT TURN,
BUT IT'S
PROOF OF
HER
EXCELLENT
SHAPE.

SHE'S
MOVING
GREAT
SO FAR.

I
LUCKED
OUT!

TODAY,
YOU WILL
BE NOT THE
RUNNERUP
BUT THE
WINNER!

YOKOHAMA
Caruta Club
since 1980

YUUKI
HIDEKO,
TODAY
IS YOUR
DAY...

THE OTHER
SEMIFINALISTS
ARE ALL
JUST HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS.

AND I'VE LONG
SINCE STOPPED
BEING SCARED
OF PLAYERS
WHOSE ONLY
SAVING GRACE
IS THEIR
ENERGY.



I'LL
ONLY KEEP
SINKING
DOWN
DEEPER
IN THE
FUTURE.

I'M
SURE



は
?

は
?

IF I
LOSE
HERE,

IF I FAIL
TO BECOME
EVEN THE
RUNNERUP,



ONII-
CHAN
REALLY
LEFT.

HE'S
NOT
HERE.



DO YOUR
BEST,
ME.

OH
WELL,

は
あ



And only
Hanano-
senpai is
watching
Mashima-
senpai...

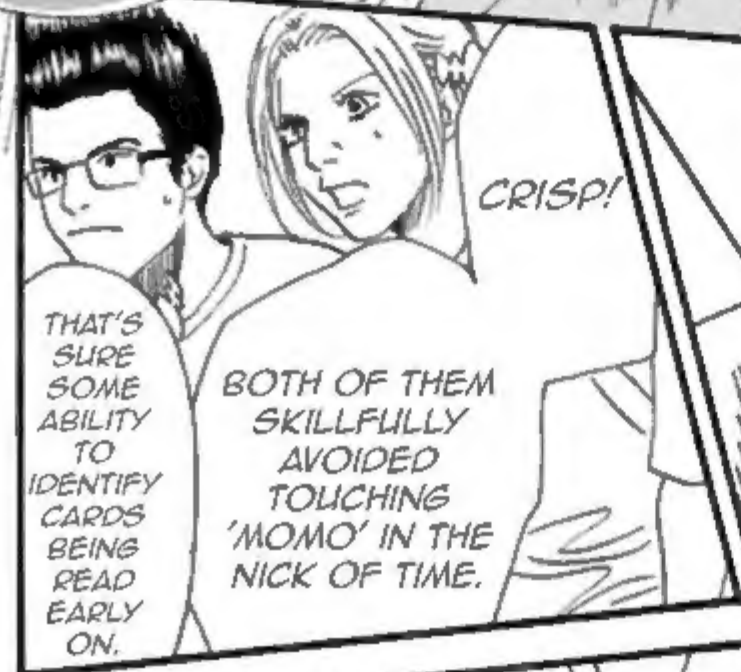
AND
EVERY-
ONE'S
ONLY
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO AYASE-
SENPAI'S
GAME.



*Shi-
rushi
nari*



Mo-



THAT'S SURE SOME ABILITY TO IDENTIFY CARDS BEING READ EARLY ON.

BOTH OF THEM SKILLFULLY AVOIDED TOUCHING 'MOMO' IN THE NICK OF TIME.

CRISP!



ro-

tomo
ni~

I WILL MOVE THE CARDS.

SMART MOVE.

'MORO' HAS
ALREADY
BEEN READ,
BUT THERE
IS ONE
MORE 'MO'
CARD.

MU

MICHI

SEEING RION'S
QUICK REACTION
TO THE 'MO'
SYLLABLE, SHE
SPLIT 'MU' AND
'MICHI'.

IT WILL BE
A CONTEST TO
SEE WHICH ONE
OF THEM CAN
IDENTIFY THE M
SOUND EARLER.

は、

は、

I
WILL BE
THE ONE
TO CLAIM
THE M
SOUND!

BRING
IT!



FOCUS!

FOCUS,
RION!

SHE'S STILL
FLAT AS
A BOARD
THOUGH

RION
SURE
CHANG-
ED...

DO
YOUR
DAMN-
EST!

AND SHE
USED TO
BE AN
EMOTION-
LESS DOLL
WITH
A POKER
FACE!

MAKOTO,
YOU...

DESPITE
NOT MAKING
A SOUND,
YOU'RE BEING
PESKY.



11

ARE
WARM.

MY
FINGER-
TIPS

rice

WARMING
UP MY
WHOLE
BODY.

IT'S THE
NOURISH-
MENT THAT
GRAND-
MOTHER
PROVIDED
FOR ME.

WHAT
WAS
ONIGIRI
JUST
A SHORT
WHILE
AGO

TURNED INTO
NOURISH-
MENT, INTO
GRAINS,

THE VIDEO OF
YOU BEING
A JUDGE IN
THE RED AND
WHITE SINGING
CONTEST.

I WANT
TO SEE IT.
I CAN,
CAN'T I?

THOSE OLD
VIDEOS
AGAIN...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

RION.

PLEASE
DON'T--

OH
DEAR.

IT WAS
MORE THAN
30 YEARS
AGO.

RION,
PLEASE
STOP.

WOW,
YOU WERE
SO PRETTY,
GRANDMA.

Competitive Karuta Queen
Hosaka Kyouko dan 6

SHE'S
A GREAT
QUEEN
WHO
REIGNED
FOR 8
SEASONS.

BUT
BEFORE
THAT,

MY
GRAND-
MOTHER
IS

I HAD
ONLY JUST
BECOME
AN ETERNAL
QUEEN AT
THE TIME.

MY MOST
FAVORITE
READER...

FINALLY
COULD
CONSIDER
MYSELF
MATURE
ENOUGH AS
A QUEEN...

Eh...



SHE
GOT
ME.

I
COULDN'T
EVEN
MOVE.

UGH.

Ai
mite
no~



KOMINE-
SAN'S
RESEMBLES

IF I HAD TO
COMPARE

UNLIKE THE READING
OF IGARASHI-SAN
THAT COULD BE
LIKENED TO RELEASED
ARROWS COMING
AT YOU,



3-
DIMEN-
TIONAL

SMALL
BEADS

AS
THEY HIT
YOU.

SLANTING
AT AN
ANGLE



14

SHE'S
RELENT-
LESSLY
ATTACKING
THE ENEMY
FORMA-
TION.

THAT'S
CHIHAYA-
CHAN!

FAST!



SHE
STOLE
'MOMO'
FROM
ME!

mo-
shiki
ya~



IT'S MORE LIKE
SHE CHALLENGED
HER OPPONENT TO
AN EVEN MORE
DIFFICULT AND RISKY
HEARING CONTEST.

SHE
TOOK
'MOMO',

BUT
THERE IS
'MICH' ON
HER HALF OF
THE PLAYING
FIELD AND
'MU' AND
'MOYO' ON HER
OPPON-
ENT'S.

きりたちの
ほるあきの
ゆふくれ

[92]

IT'S
'MURA-
SAME'!

HER
DETERMINATION
TO ATTACK IS
SO STRONG
THAT I CAN
PRACTICALLY
HEAR IT.

AGGRE-
SSIVE.

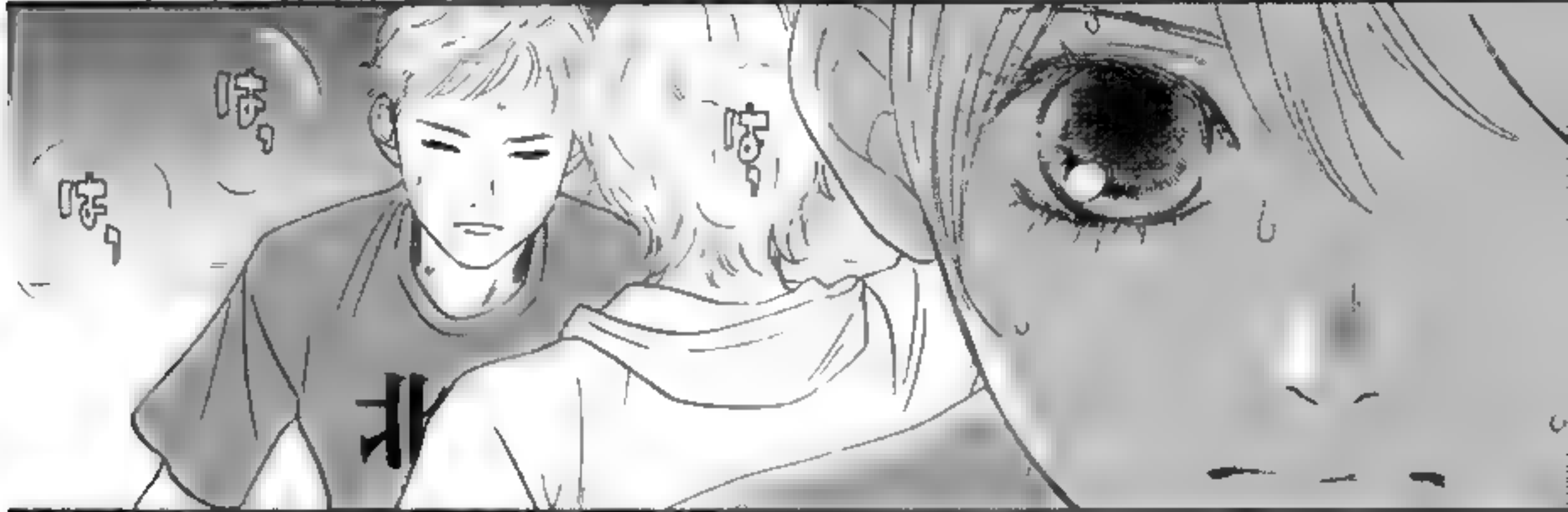
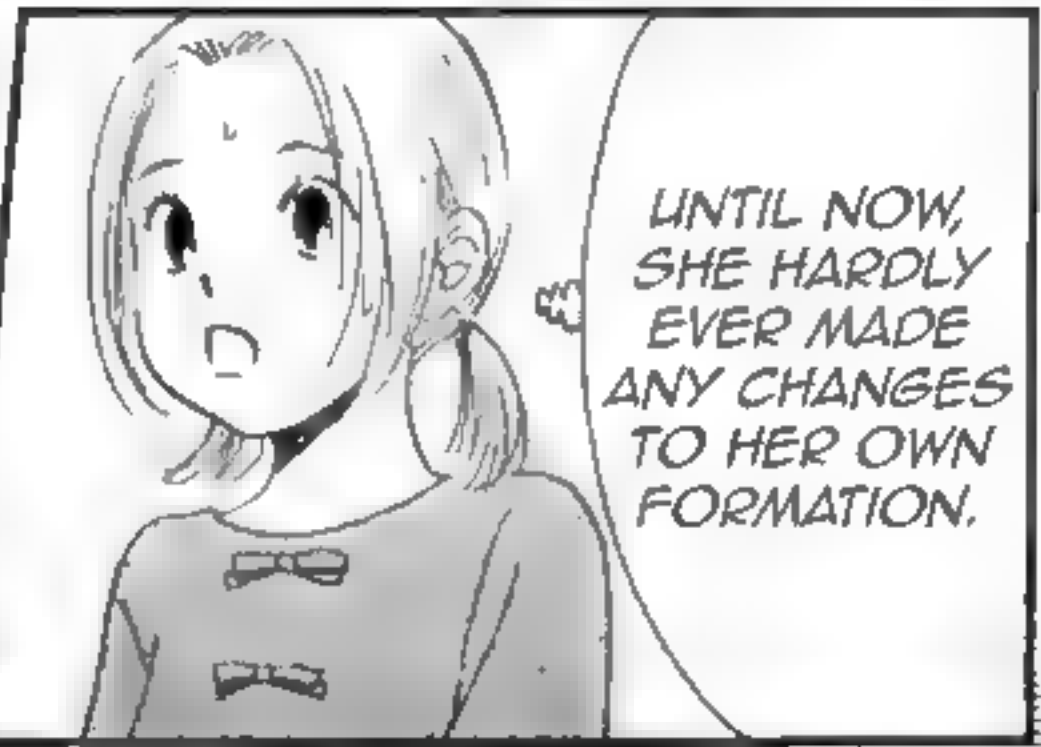
SHE'S
CERTAINLY
HARADA-
SENSEI'S
STUDENT,

SPLITTING
THOSE
CARDS, OR
RATHER...

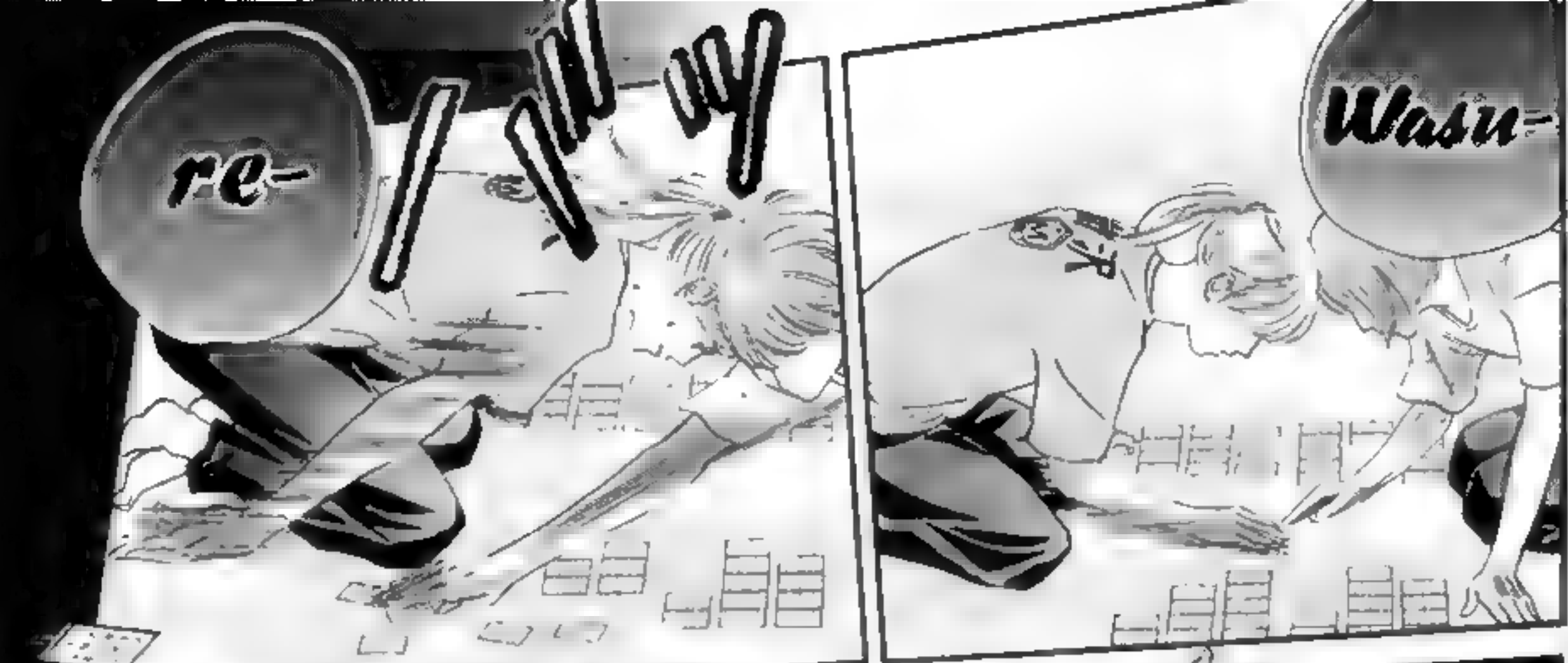
THIS
EARLY
IN THE
GAME?!

IF THE M
SOUND
IS SO
EASY FOR
HER, WHY
DIDN'T
SHE SEND
'MICH'?

SHE
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
SENDING
A ONE-
SYLLABLE
CARD!



"WHAT'S WRONG
WITH FALLING
FLAT ON YOUR
FACE TO TAKE
A CARD?
IT'S COOL!"



Aa~

IT'S
YAMA-
SHIRO
RION'S
TAKE.

YOU TEND TO
ASSUME THAT
THE ONE TO
MAKE SUCH
A GRAND NOISE
WAS THE ONE
TO TAKE THE
CARD, BUT
ALAS.

EVEN THOUGH
SUDDOU-SAN
PERSONALLY
TAUGHT HER
THE BACKSWING
TECHNIQUE!

SHE STILL
LOST HER
BALANCE!

DID
SHE TAKE
THE CARD?

EH?!

CHIHAYA-
CHAN
USED
A BACK-
SWEEP?!



...REACTION
IS QUICK
AND
SHARP.

And after
making
all that
noise, too

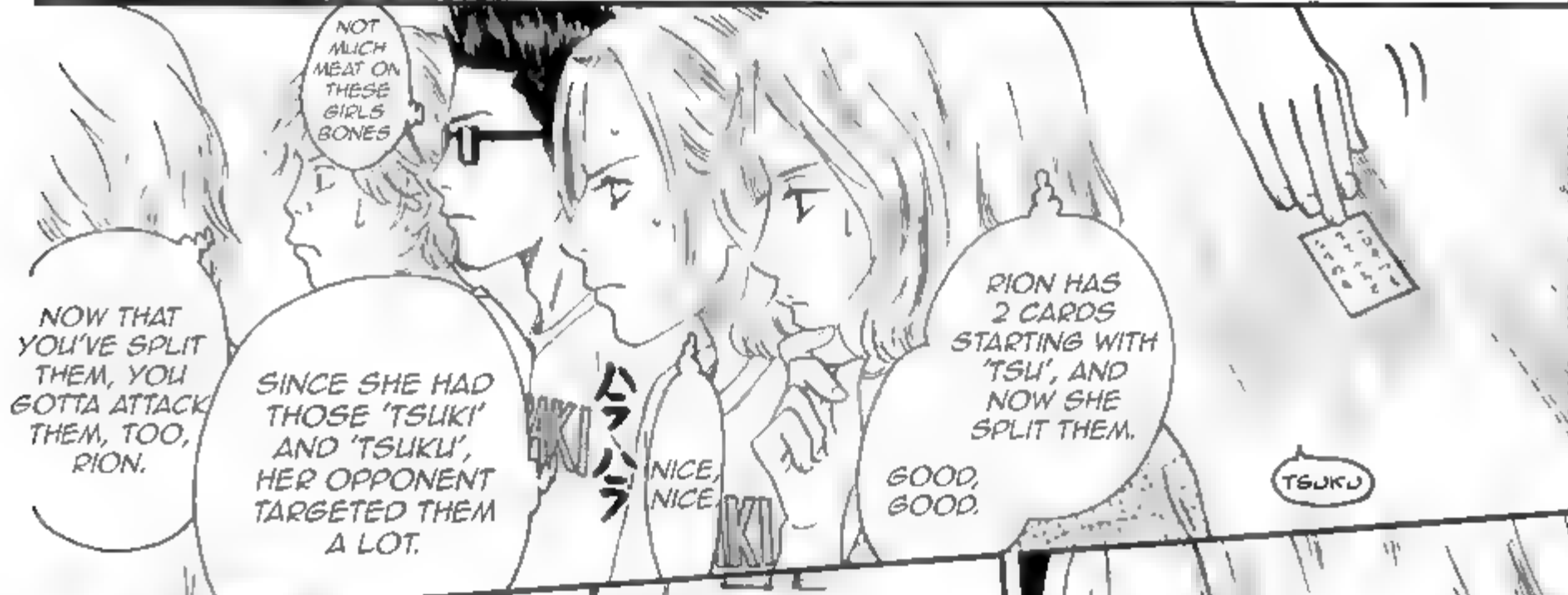
DOOF-
US~
KLUTZ~

YAMA-
CHAN'S...

BOTCH-
ED IT
UP?
WHAT
A CLUMSY
DOLT.

MY
ACCU-
RACY.

I'VE
GOT TO
UP



NOT
MUCH
MEAT ON
THESE
GIRLS
BONES

NOW THAT
YOU'VE SPLIT
THEM, YOU
GOTTA ATTACK
THEM, TOO,
RION.

SINCE SHE HAD
THOSE 'TSUKI'
AND 'TSUKU',
HER OPPONENT
TARGETED THEM
A LOT.

ハ
ハ
ハ

NICE,
NICE.

RION HAS
2 CARDS
STARTING WITH
'TSU', AND
NOW SHE
SPLIT THEM.

GOOD,
GOOD.

TSUKU



TAKE
RISKS
AND
MAKE
IT
TURN.

THE ONLY
WAY TO
TURN IT
IN YOUR
FAVOR IS
TO MAKE
TACTICAL
MOVES,
CHOOSE
TARGETS

GAMEFLOW
DOES NOT
FAVOR
THOSE WHO
SIMPLY
WAIT.



THERE IS
SUCH A
THING AS
GAME-
FLOW.

BUT

SHE WILL
BE LUCKY
IF 'TSUKU'
IS READ...

KOMINE-
SAN'S
BEADS OF
SOUND,

I WILL
RAISE MY
ACCURACY.

TO THE
RESONANCE
OF THOSE
TINY
PARTICLES,

I'VE GOT
TO LISTEN
TO

OR
WITH
MY
BRAIN.

BUT
NOT
WITH
MY
EARS

I'VE GOT
TO LISTEN
TO THEM

WITH MY
HAND.

Caru



HE WENT
BACK AND
TOOK IT
NICE AND
CLEAN!

HE
DID
IT!

THAT'S
SUDOU-
SAN FOR
YOU!

北央



I WENT
FOR 'MACHI'
AS WELL,
BUT I
COULDN'T
REACH IT.

IT WAS
AN UGLY
LOOKING
BACK-
SWING.

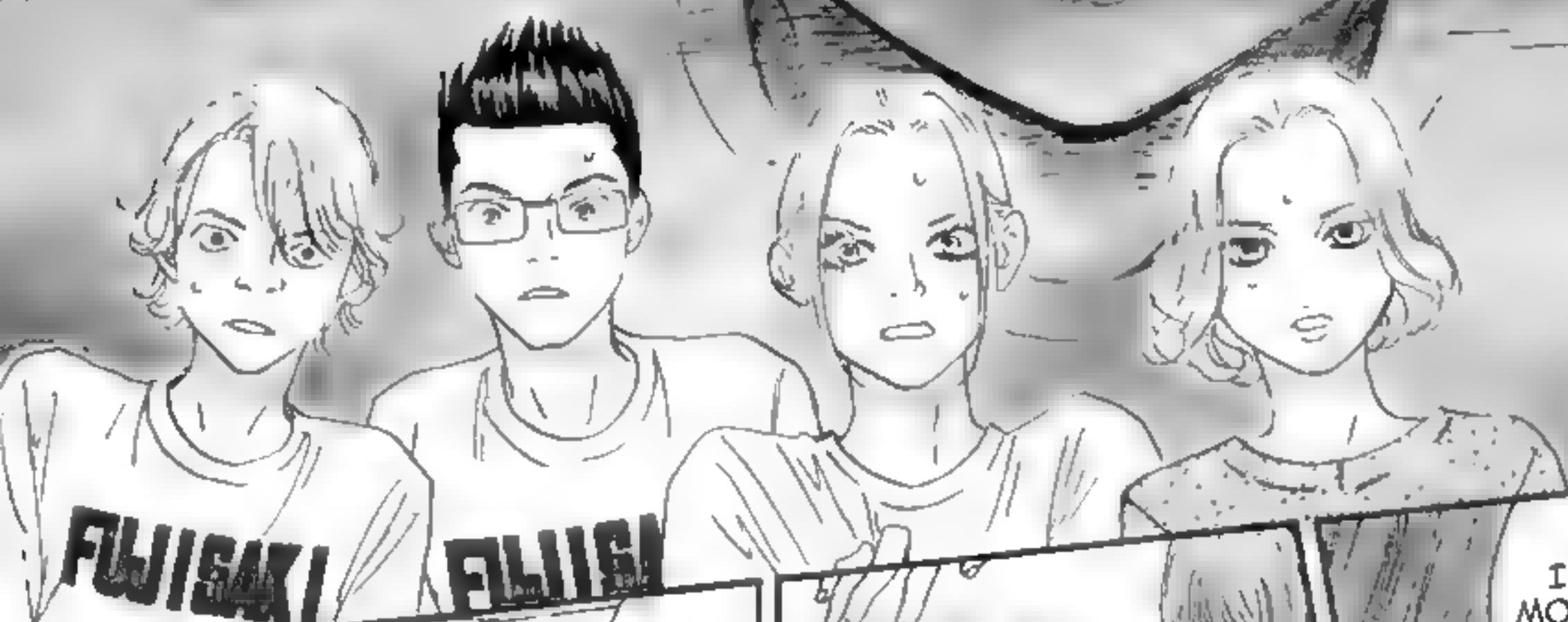
SHE
TOOK
BOTH
'MOMO'
AND
'MACHI'.

BUT
SHE
TOOK
IT.

"IT WAS
KINDA
COOL."

MY M
SOUND...

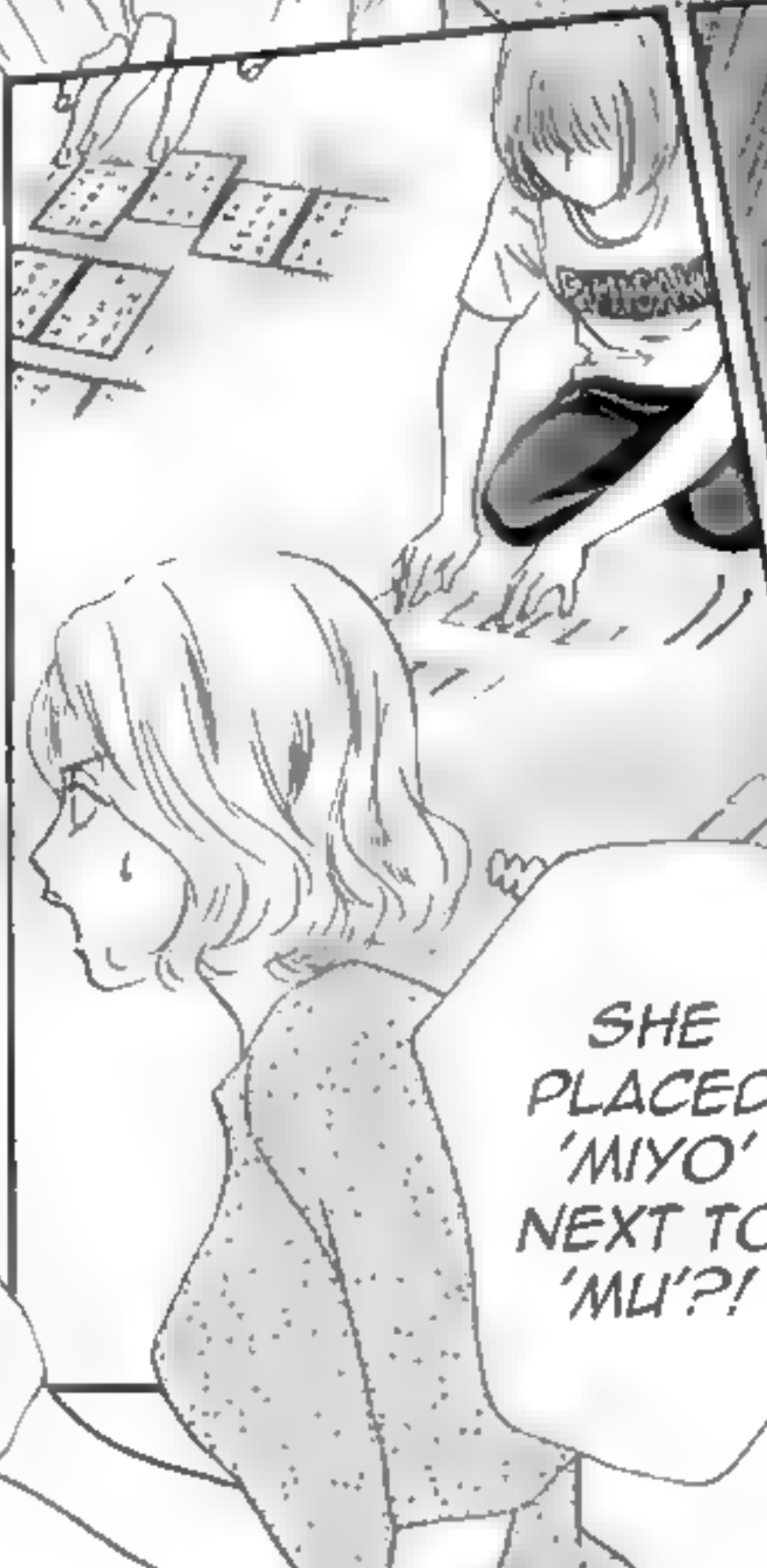




WITH BOTH OF THEM IN THE LOWER RIGHT ROW OF HER FORMATION?!

RION, THOSE ARE NOT THE CARDS YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON SO EASILY!

THE EXACT SPOT AYASE-SAN HAS BEEN VEHEMENTLY TARGETING ALL THE TIME!



I WILL MOVE THE CARDS.

SHE PLACED 'MIYO' NEXT TO 'MI'?!?



EVEN IF SHE LOST THE BATTLE FOR THE M SOUND THAT WAS OF KEY IMPORTANCE TO HER,

AYASE-SENPAI ACTUALLY HAS BEEN WORKING ON HER ACCURACY WITH THE 'A' CARDS.

YES, IT COULD.

ARGH, THE OPPONENT'S CONSECUTIVE TAKES.

BUT WITH THE 'A' CARDS, IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.

IT'S JUST THAT THAT YAMASHIRO-SAN IS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.

SHE HAS NO SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF HANDING OVER THE GAMEFLOW.



SINCE
WHEN DID
HER KARUTA
BECOME
SO STRONG-
WILLED...?

25



AND HOLD
THE TITLE
FOR 8
SEASONS



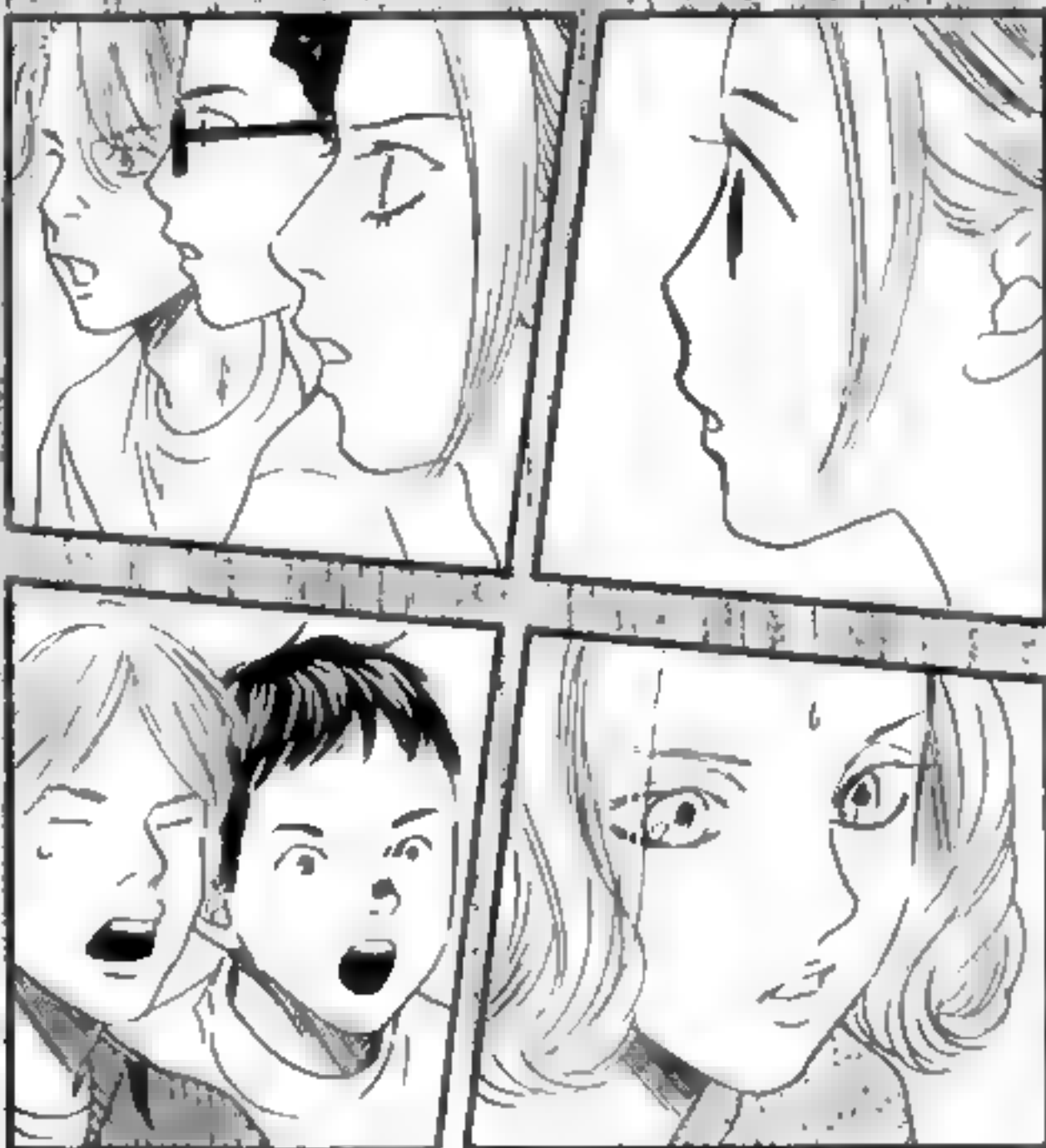
BECAUSE
I HAD
FIGURED
OUT

THE
SECRET
BEHIND
THE M
SOUND.



IT IS ONLY
MY GUESS,

BUT
I THINK
I WAS
ABLE TO
BECOME
THE
QUEEN



Mi-

ちはやふる





THE WAY THE
REVERBERATION
FADES OUT
IS DIFFERENT.

SOUND
AS IF
THERE IS
NOTHING.

ITS
PARTI-
CLES

THE
BEADS
OF
SOUND,

OH
MY.

YOU AND I
WHEN I WAS
YOUNG
LOOK LIKE
TWO PEAS
IN A POD,

AND FOR
AS LONG
AS I KEPT
DEFENDING
THE TITLE,

I LOVE
GRAND-
MOTHER'S
READING.

I WANT
TO PLAY
KARUTA TO
GRAND-
MOTHER'S
READING.

SHE
WOULD
CONTINUE
READING
FOR ME...

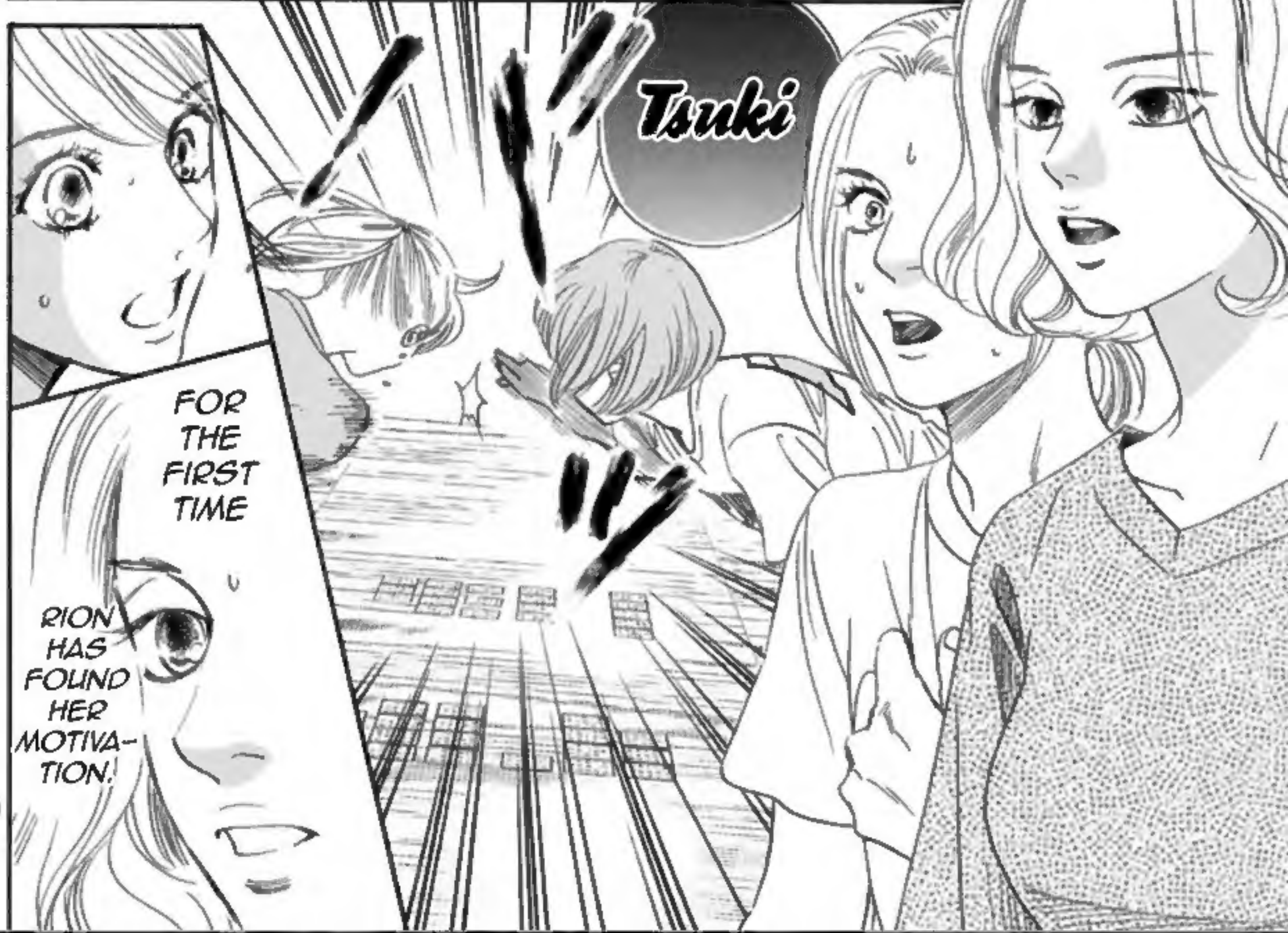
MORE
AND
MORE,
FOREVER
AND
EVER.

AND
IF I

DON'T
YOU
THINK,
RION?

I'M
SURE
SHE
WOULD
STAY ON
AS A
READER.

BECAME
THE
QUEEN,





HAS
FOUND
HER
GREED.

*Kaku
to
dani-*

HER
ATTACKS
KEEP
FAILING.

SHE'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE GOOD
WITH 'TSUKI'
AND 'KAKU',
BUT SHE
LOST THEM.

THE READER
KEEPS DRAWING
CARDS FROM
CHIHAYA-CHAN'S
FORMATION...

IS
TURNING
THE TIDES
OF
GAMEFLOW
IN HER
FAVOR.

AND
THAT
GREED



**THE
ONE TO
ADVANCE**

**WILL
BE
ME.**

TDX Release

Chihayafuru

SPECIAL THANKS

RAW:

Redrawing:

Tonololo

Nazo no
Seibutsu